

Information Directorate: Dedicated to meeting challenges of the information age

by Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate is a vibrant confluence of information specialists; electrical and computer engineers, computer scientists, mathematicians, physicists and a supporting staff.

Headquartered in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park, site of the former Griffiss Air Force Base, the directorate is organized into four technology mission divisions ranging from Site Operations and Business Management to Financial Management and Contracting. It also boasts four branches of its missions divisions at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

All members of the staff are dedicated to exploring, building, exploiting, and brokering the science and technology associated with meeting America's aerospace information technology needs for the 21st century.

Specifically, directorate scientists and engineers develop systems, concepts and technologies to enhance the Air Force's capability to successfully meet the challenges of the information age. They develop and integrate programs to acquire data; find better ways to store, process and fuse data to make it into information; and to create means to deliver and present tailored information to allow the military decision-maker to have the total sphere of information needs for successful operations worldwide.

Directorate research focuses on three primary technology thrusts: Dynamic Planning & Execution, Global Information Exchange, and Global Awareness.

Dynamic Planning & Execution concentrates on the aerospace commander's ability to rapidly acquire and exploit superior, consistent knowledge of the battlespace, through a worldwide-distributed decision-making infrastructure of virtual battlestaffs and intelligent information specialists.

Global Information Exchange creates the ability to interconnect all members of the air Force via a netted communication and information system, available anywhere, at any time, and for any task or mission. The ability to communicate by moving raw and processed information throughout a global communications grid is fundamental to successful command and control.

Global Awareness entails the affordable operational capability, from local to global level, for all pertinent personnel to un-



derstand militarily relevant situations on a consistent basis with the precision needed to accomplish the mission. That understanding is achieved by exploiting information from intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance sensor data, as well as examining open source and commercial data, that is required for the entire spectrum of military operations. The information is then fused to support Dynamic Planning & Execution, via the Global Information Exchange distribution system.

The Air Force's research and development heritage at Rome began in June 1951, with the establishment of Rome Air Development Center. RADC was redesignated Rome Laboratory, one of the Air Force's four "super" laboratories, in December 1990. The Rome Research Site was created in 1997 with the establishment of AFRL. @

mobile and armored targets, deeply buried underground targets, and aerial targets.

The Operations and Integration Division enables the Directorate's mission by providing well-conceived and executed business computing, human resource management and business development services. The Financial Management Division enables the Directorate to manage its financial resources and the Procurement Division provides an in-house contracting capability.

Since the directorate's inception, the research and development efforts have focused on user needs. The significance of applying leading edge technology to provide the user with the state-of-the-art weaponry makes a dramatic impact on the outcome of any given strike mission. Technology endeavors over recent years have manifested themselves in a variety of non-nuclear air armament, some of which were employed in operations in Libya and Desert Storm. @